星野之宣
星を継ぐもの
YUKINOBU HOSHINO
BIG COMICS SPECIAL
02
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原作 J.P.ホーガン
星野之宣
BIG COMICS SPECIAL
ISBN978-4-09-184230-5
C9979 ¥1238E
9784091842305
1929979012380
定価：本体1,238円＋税
雑誌 45792-30 小学館
月面で見つかった5万年前の遺体に続き、
木星の衛星・ガニメデで
100万年前の宇宙船が
国連宇宙軍から秘密裏に、ガニメデに派遣された。
ハント博士、チャンチャン、救援らは
地球外知的生命体と遭遇することに……!?

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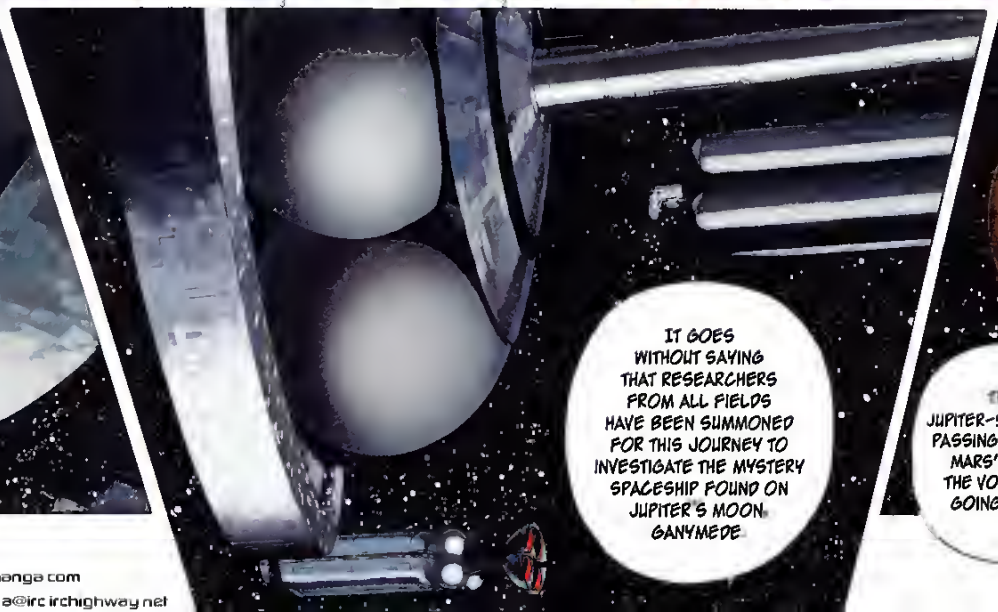
Chapter 9 ...
The Windswept World

BUT IT'S A WHOLE THREE MONTHS TO GANYMEDE... SO, TAKING UP DR. VICTOR HUNT'S SUGGESTION, WE WANTED TO GIVE EVERYONE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS A SEPARATE TOPIC THAT WE HAVE ON HAND.


IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT RESEARCHERS FROM ALL FIELDS HAVE BEEN SUMMONED FOR THIS JOURNEY TO INVESTIGATE THE MYSTERY SPACESHIP FOUND ON JUPITER'S MOON, GANYMEDE.

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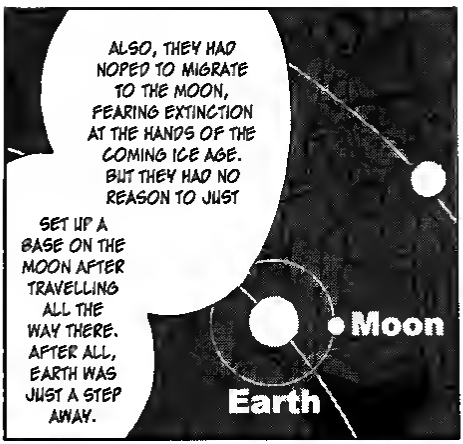
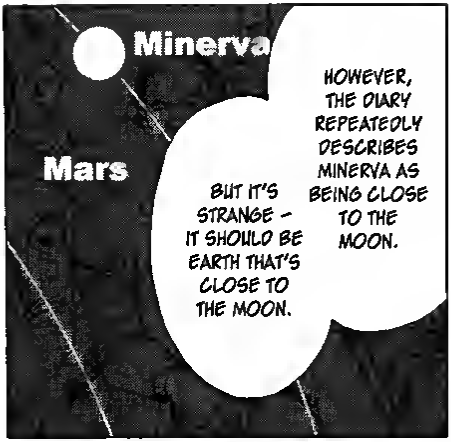
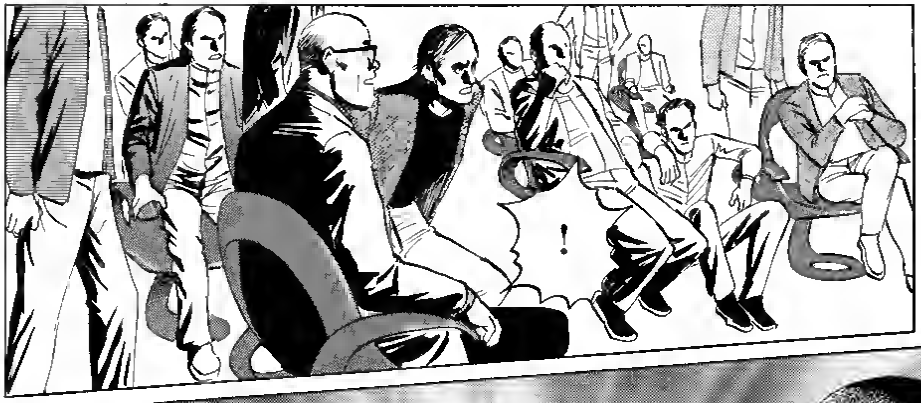
WITH THAT, MAY I INVITE DR. HUNT TO EXPLAIN THE TOPIC?
AND AMATEURS SUCH AS MYSELF WILL NO DOUBT LEARN MUCH FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS.
THIS IS ALSO A GREAT OPPORTUNITY GIVEN THAT SO MANY LEARNED MINDS ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY. AND DEPENDING ON HOW IT GOES, IT MAY VERY WELL END UP BEING RELEVANT TO THE GANYMEDE SPACE SHIP...
I'M SURE ALL OF YOU KNOW ABOUT THE 50,000 YEAR OLD BODY THAT WAS FOUND IN A LUNAR CAVE, OUR LUNARIAN, CHARLIE—
THANK YOU, COMMANDER SHANNON...
FROM THE DIARY HE LEFT BEHIND, WE DEDUCED THAT HE CAME FROM THE FIFTH MISSING PLANET, MINERVA— AT THE TIME, A WAR MASSIVE ENOUGH TO EMBROIL EVEN THE MOON HAD BROKEN OUT.


ALSO, THEY HAD NOPED TO MIGRATE TO THE MOON, FEARING EXTINCTION AT THE HANDS OF THE COMING ICE AGE. BUT THEY HAD NO REASON TO JUST SET UP A BASE ON THE MOON AFTER TRAVELLING ALL THE WAY THERE. AFTER ALL, EARTH WAS JUST A STEP AWAY.
Moon
Earth


Minerva
Mars
BUT IT'S STRANGE — IT SHOULD BE EARTH THAT'S CLOSE TO THE MOON.
HOWEVER, THE DIARY REPEATEDLY DESCRIBES MINERVA AS BEING CLOSE TO THE MOON.

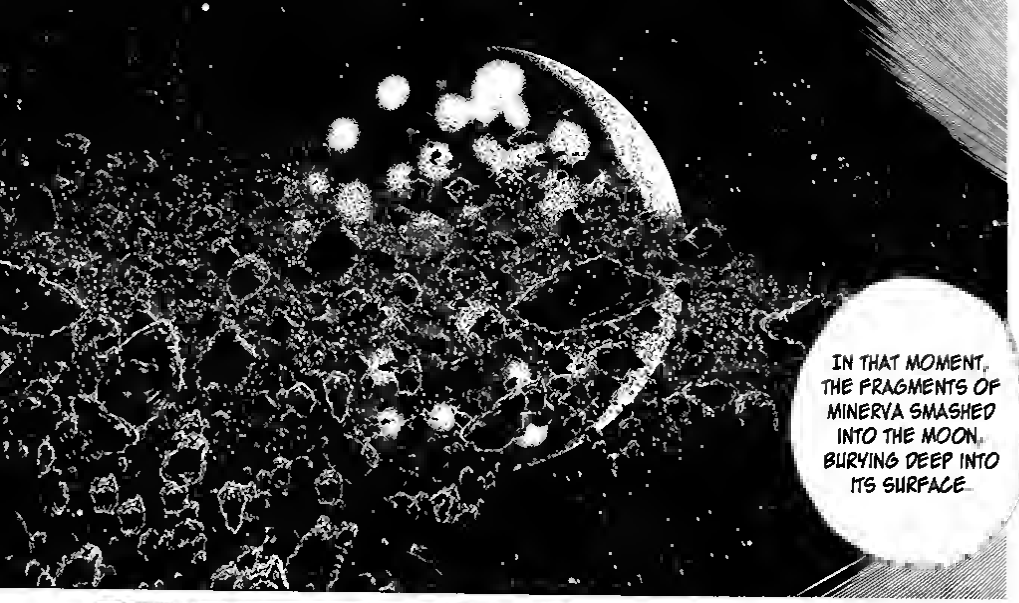
IT WAS ORBITING MINERVA 50,000 YEARS AGO!
THE MOON WAS NOT EARTH'S SATELLITE ORIGINALLY.

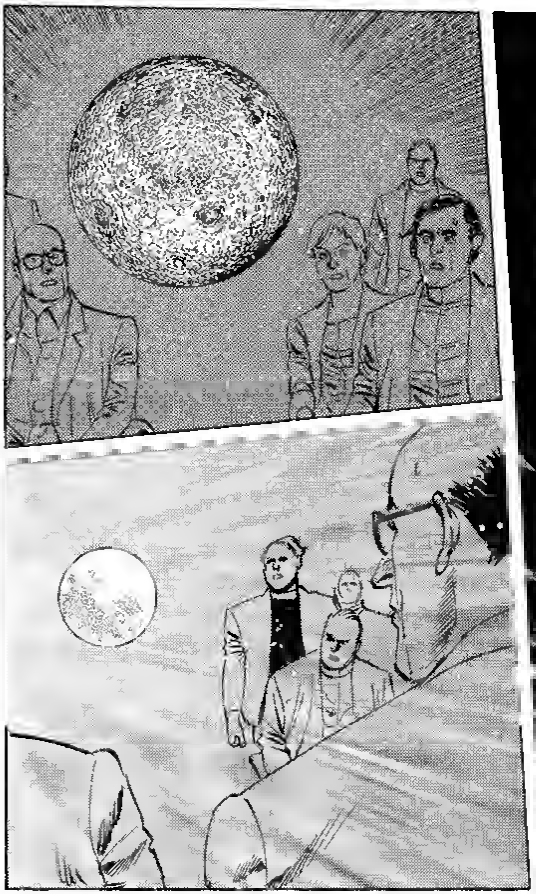
THERE'S JUST ONE SOLUTION TO THIS MYSTERY—


!

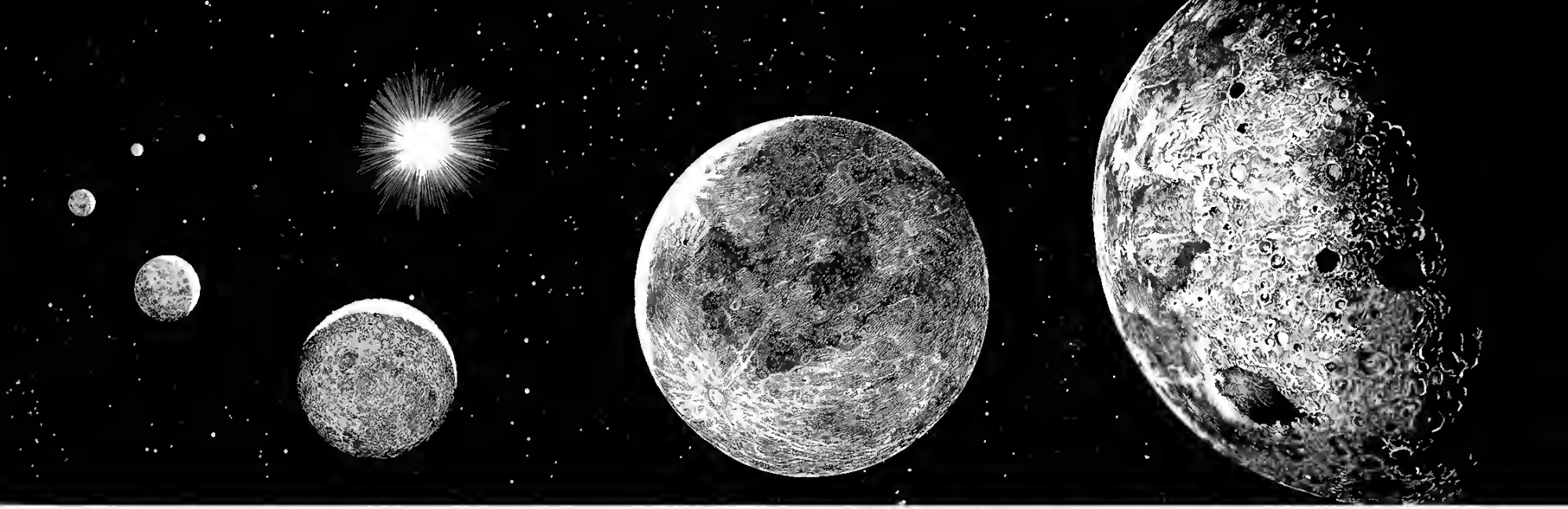
SITUATED ALONG THE EXISTING ASTEROID BELT BETWEEN MARS AND JUPITER, MINERVA HAD BEEN OBLITERATED BY A BLACK HOLE WEAPON IN A SHORT SPAN OF TIME—

WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PLANET— THE MOON, FREE FROM MINERVA'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL, WAS CATAPULTED INTO THE SOLAR SYSTEM.


IN THAT MOMENT, THE FRAGMENTS OF MINERVA SMASHED INTO THE MOON, BURYING DEEP INTO ITS SURFACE.



CHARLIE PROBABLY DIED AT THIS POINT, AND HIS TARGET GOUDA BASE AND THE ENEMY LAMBIAN ARMY WERE CRUSHED BENEATH THE HUGE ROCKS.



THERE, LYING IN THE PATH OF THE MOON AS IT WAS TRAVERSING THE SOLAR SYSTEM, WAS EARTH.

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IN THE 4.6 BILLION YEARS THAT EARTH HAS EXISTED, IT HAS ONLY HAD A MOON FOR 50,000. YES! EXACTLY!

NOW, THE CRUX OF THE MATTER IS...
SOMEHOW OR OTHER, THE EARTH CAPTURED THE MOON AND MADE IT ITS SATELLITE—— THIS IS A QUESTION IN ITSELF, BUT THERE'S MORE TO COME.

11

8

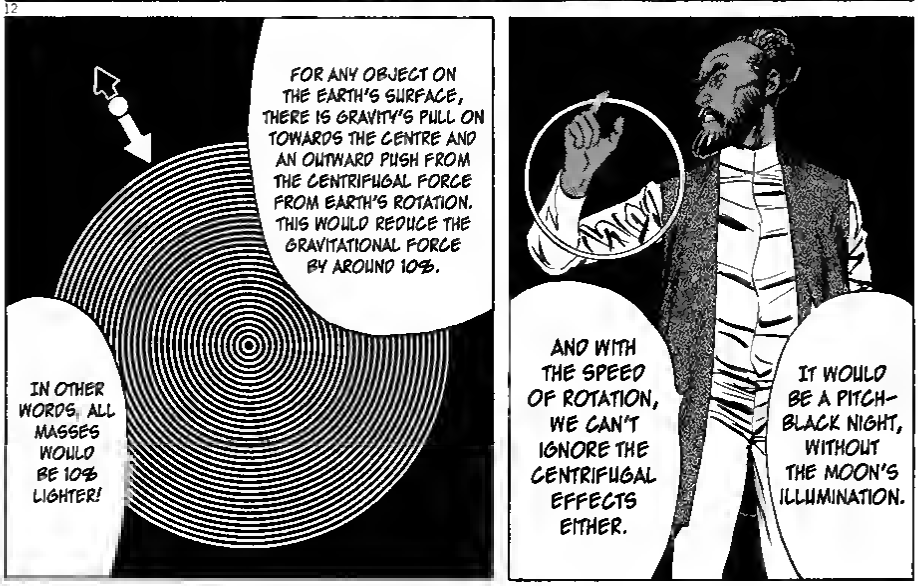
SO WHAT DID AND DIDN'T HAPPEN?
THERE'S A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE BEWEEN AN EARTH WITHOUT A MOON, AND ONE WITH, NO?
HOW'S IT AFFECT EARTH'S ATMOS-PHERE?
THE EVOLUTION OF LIFE?
AND HUMANITY—— CAN WE STILL EMBARK ON THE ROAD TO CIVILISATION WITHOUT THE MOON?
BUT WHAT IF IT'S NOT JUST A THEORY? WE'D NEED TO RETHINK OUR PERCEPTIONS OF EARTH'S HISTORY.
THIS WOULD COMPLETELY OVERTURN EVERYTHING WE'VE EVER KNOWN.
SURE, YOU CAN DISMISS IT AS RIDICULOUS, AND I'LL JUST DROP THIS DISCUSSION ONCE AND FOR ALL.

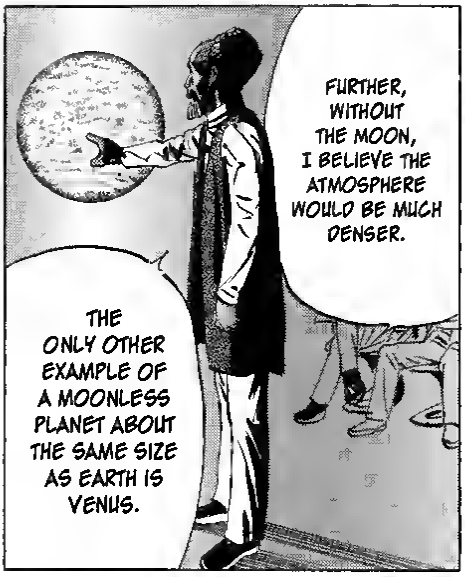
FIRST, WHY DON'T WE LET OUR ASTROPHYSICIST, DR. ARSLAN, EXPLAIN HIS THEORIES ABOUT A MOONLESS EARTH.
...
THERE'S ONE THEORY THAT THE MOON WAS CREATED FROM THE DEBRIS FROM THE COLLISION BETWEEN A LARGE ASTRONOMICAL BODY AND EARTH AS THE PLANET WAS FORMING. BUT IF WE WERE TO APPROACH IT FROM DR. HUNT'S ANGLE...
THE MOON'S GRAVITY CAUSES TIDAL PHENOMENA SUCH AS HIGH TIDES, LOW TIDES AND SPRING TIDES IN EARTH'S SEAS. BUT WITHOUT THE MOON, THERE'D ONLY BE SMALL TIDES AS A RESULT OF THE SUN'S GRAVITY.
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE MOON ORBITS AROUND EARTH, BOUND TOGETHER BY THEIR MUTUAL GRAVITATIONAL PULL.

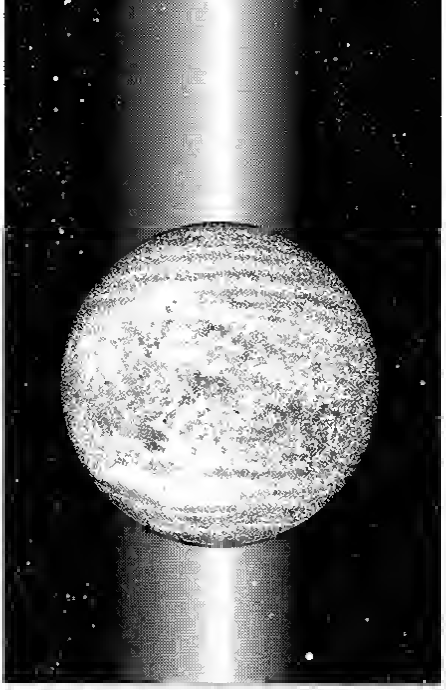
T/N Read up on tidal friction if you want to know more

PROBABLY THREE TIMES ITS CURRENT SPEED! ONE DAY WOULD BE A THIRD OF ITS EXISTING LENGTH, ABOUT EIGHT HOURS!
BECAUSE OF THE MOON'S PULL ON THE SEAWATER, THE TIDES CREATE FRICTION AGAINST THE EARTH'S ROTATION AND ACT AS THE MAIN CONTRIBUTORS IN SLOWING ITS SPIN RATE.
WITHOUT THE MOON, THIS WON'T HAPPEN, AND EARTH WOULD ROTATE AS FAST AS IT HAD WHEN IT WAS FIRST FORMED.
JUST EIGHT HOURS!? SO AN AVERAGE OF FOUR HOURS OF DAYLIGHT AND FOUR HOURS OF NIGHT...?

12

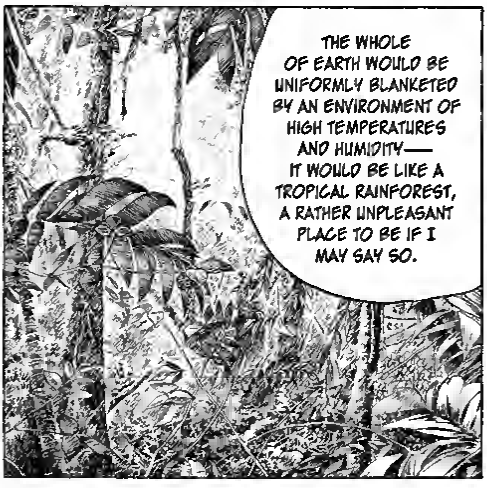

FOR ANY OBJECT ON THE EARTH'S SURFACE, THERE IS GRAVITY'S PULL ON TOWARDS THE CENTRE AND AN OUTWARD PUSH FROM THE CENTRIFUGAL FORCE FROM EARTH'S ROTATION. THIS WOULD REDUCE THE GRAVITATIONAL FORCE BY AROUND 10%.
IN OTHER WORDS, ALL MASSES WOULD BE 10% LIGHTER!
AND WITH THE SPEED OF ROTATION, WE CAN'T IGNORE THE CENTRIFUGAL EFFECTS EITHER.
IT WOULD BE A PITCH-BLACK NIGHT, WITHOUT THE MOON'S ILLUMINATION.

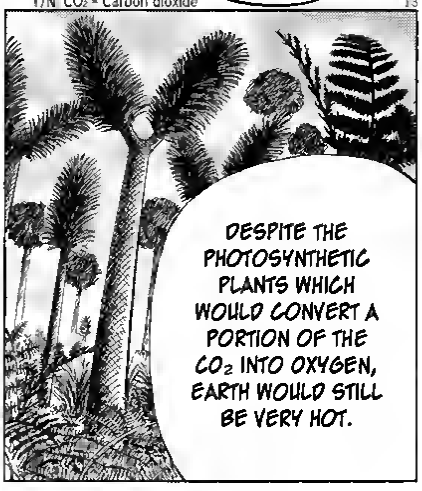

FURTHER, WITHOUT THE MOON, I BELIEVE THE ATMOSPHERE WOULD BE MUCH DENSER.
THE ONLY OTHER EXAMPLE OF A MOONLESS PLANET ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS EARTH IS VENUS.

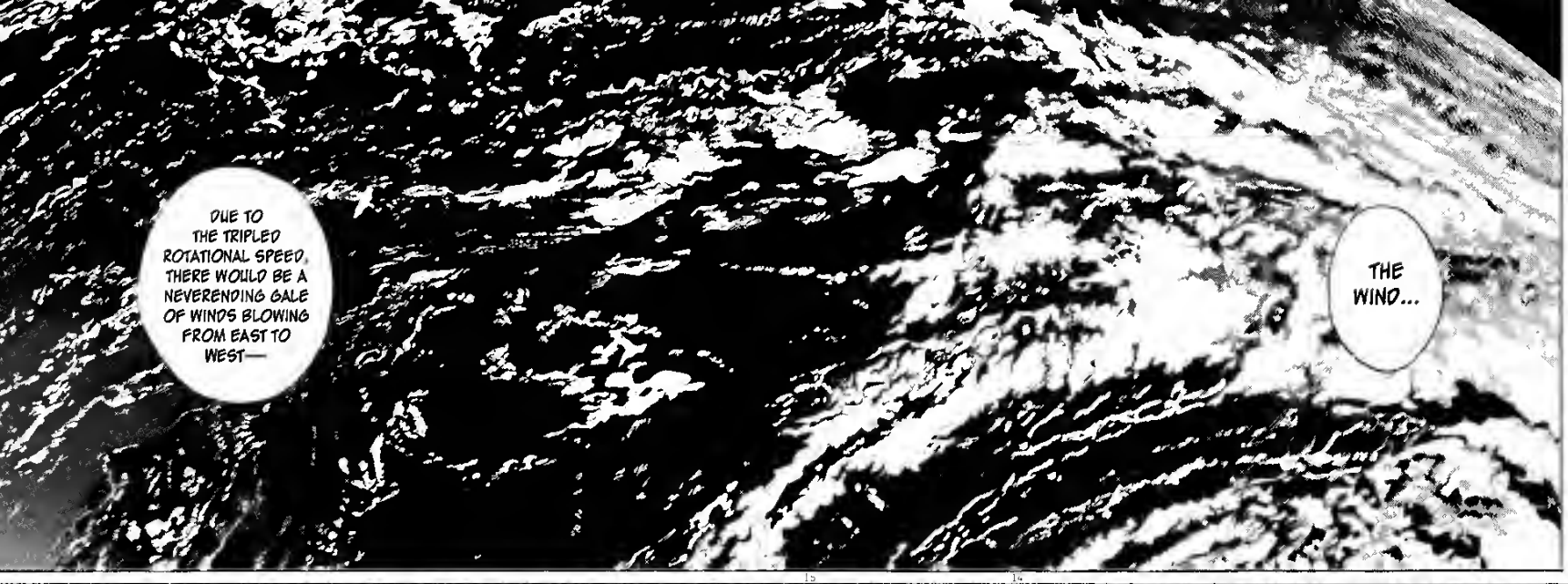


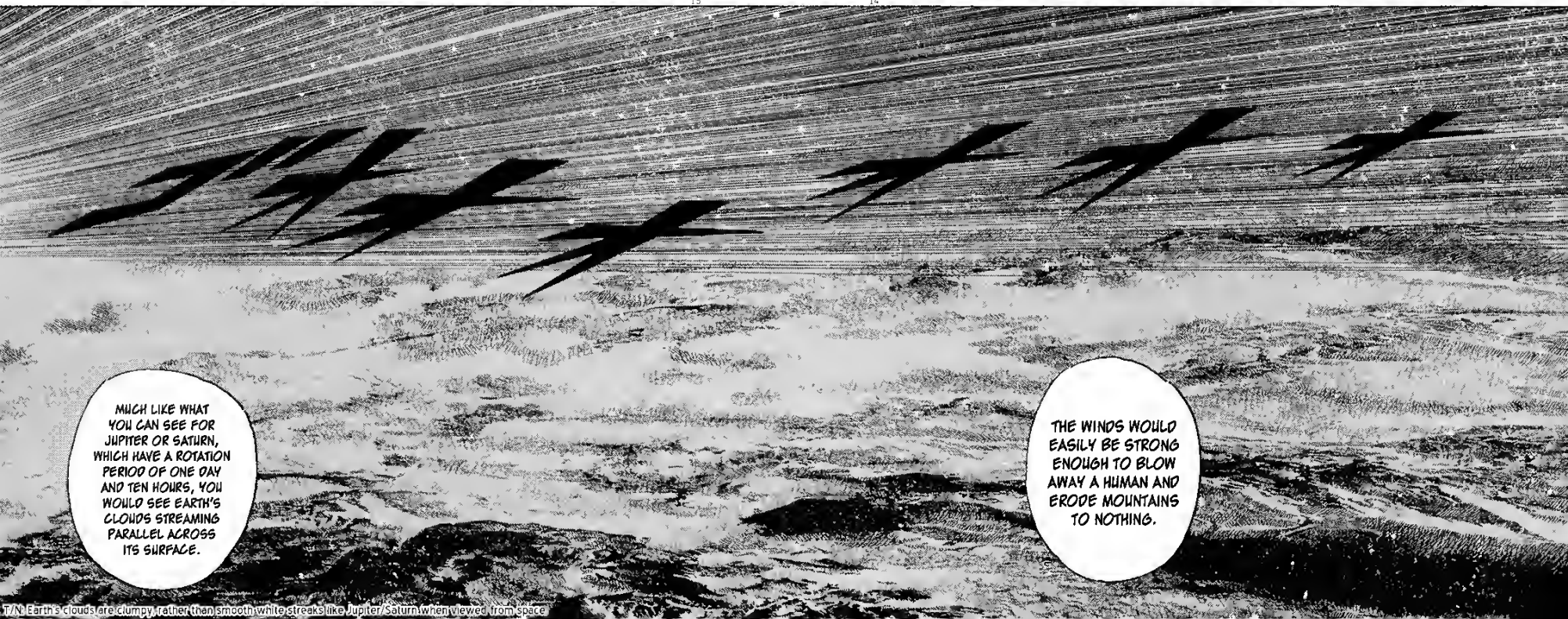
GIVEN THAT THE DENSE ATMOSPHERE OBSCURES THE PLANET'S SURFACE—— IT'S A HOT PLANET THANKS TO THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT OF THE CONCENTRATED CO_2.

T/N CO_2 = Carbon dioxide 13


THE WHOLE OF EARTH WOULD BE UNIFORMLY BLANKETED BY AN ENVIRONMENT OF HIGH TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY—— IT WOULD BE LIKE A TROPICAL RAINFOREST, A RATHER UNPLEASANT PLACE TO BE IF I MAY SAY SO.



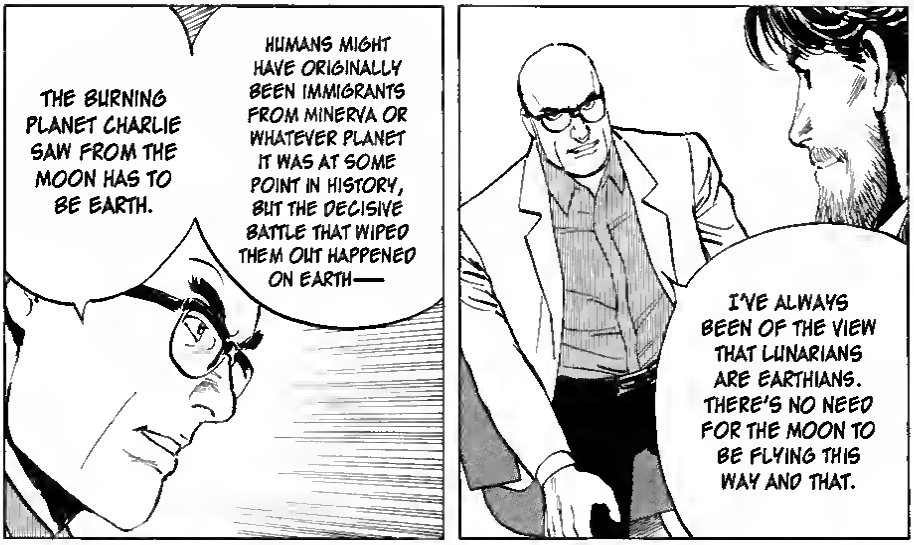



MUCH LIKE WHAT YOU CAN SEE FOR JUPITER OR SATURN, WHICH HAVE A ROTATION PERIOD OF ONE DAY AND TEN HOURS, YOU WOULD SEE EARTH'S CLOUDS STREAMING PARALLEL ACROSS ITS SURFACE.
THE WINDS WOULD EASILY BE STRONG ENOUGH TO BLOW AWAY A HUMAN AND ERODE MOUNTAINS TO NOTHING.

T/N: Earth's clouds are clumpy, rather than smooth white streaks like Jupiter/Saturn when viewed from space

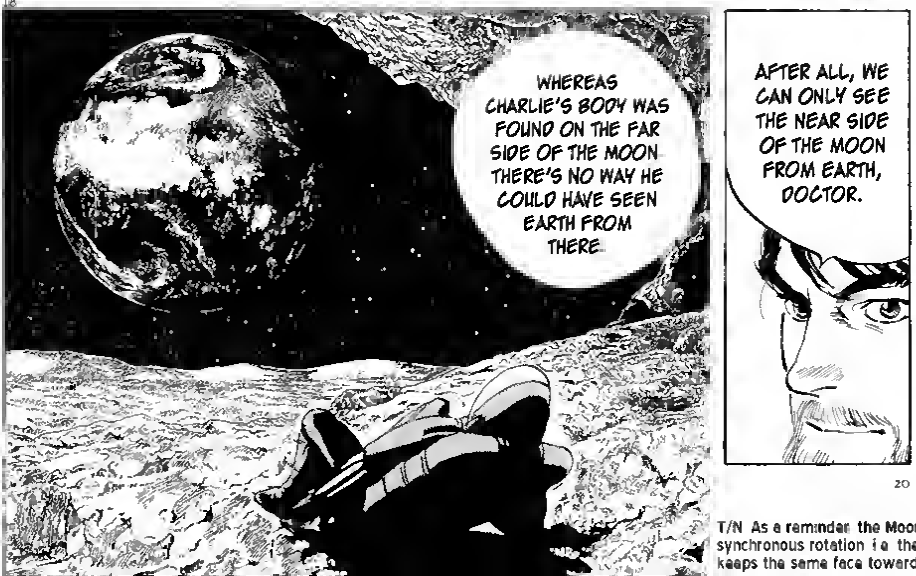
SUCH STRONG WINDS WOULD ALSO FAN THE OCEAN UP INTO MUCH HIGHER AND MORE POWERFUL WAVES, WHICH WOULD BATTER THE COASTLINES.
THERE WOULD ALSO BE OCCASIONAL SUPER HURRICANES WITH WINDSPEEDS OF OVER 300KM.

...
PROFESSOR DANCHEKKER, AS A BIOLOGIST, WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OF THIS ENVIRONMENT'S IMPACT?
SO IT SEEMS EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT WOULD BE DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT WITHOUT THE MOON...
17
MY APOLOGIES, BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD IN SUCH A SCENARIO——


THE BURNING PLANET CHARLIE SAW FROM THE MOON HAS TO BE EARTH.
HUMANS MIGHT HAVE ORIGINALLY BEEN IMMIGRANTS FROM MINERVA OR WHATEVER PLANET IT WAS AT SOME POINT IN HISTORY, BUT THE DECISIVE BATTLE THAT WIPED THEM OUT HAPPENED ON EARTH——
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN OF THE VIEW THAT LUNARIANS ARE EARTHIANS. THERE'S NO NEED FOR THE MOON TO BE FLYING THIS WAY AND THAT.

IN THAT CASE, IT'D BE STRANGE THAT NO TRACE OF CIVILIZATION OR BATTLE FROM 50,000 YEARS AGO HAS BEEN FOUND ON EARTH. THERE'S ALSO ANOTHER, WELL, ALMOST BORING COUNTERARGUMENT TO YOUR THEORY.

18


WHEREAS CHARLIE'S BODY WAS FOUND ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HAVE SEEN EARTH FROM THERE.
AFTER ALL, WE CAN ONLY SEE THE NEAR SIDE OF THE MOON FROM EARTH, DOCTOR.

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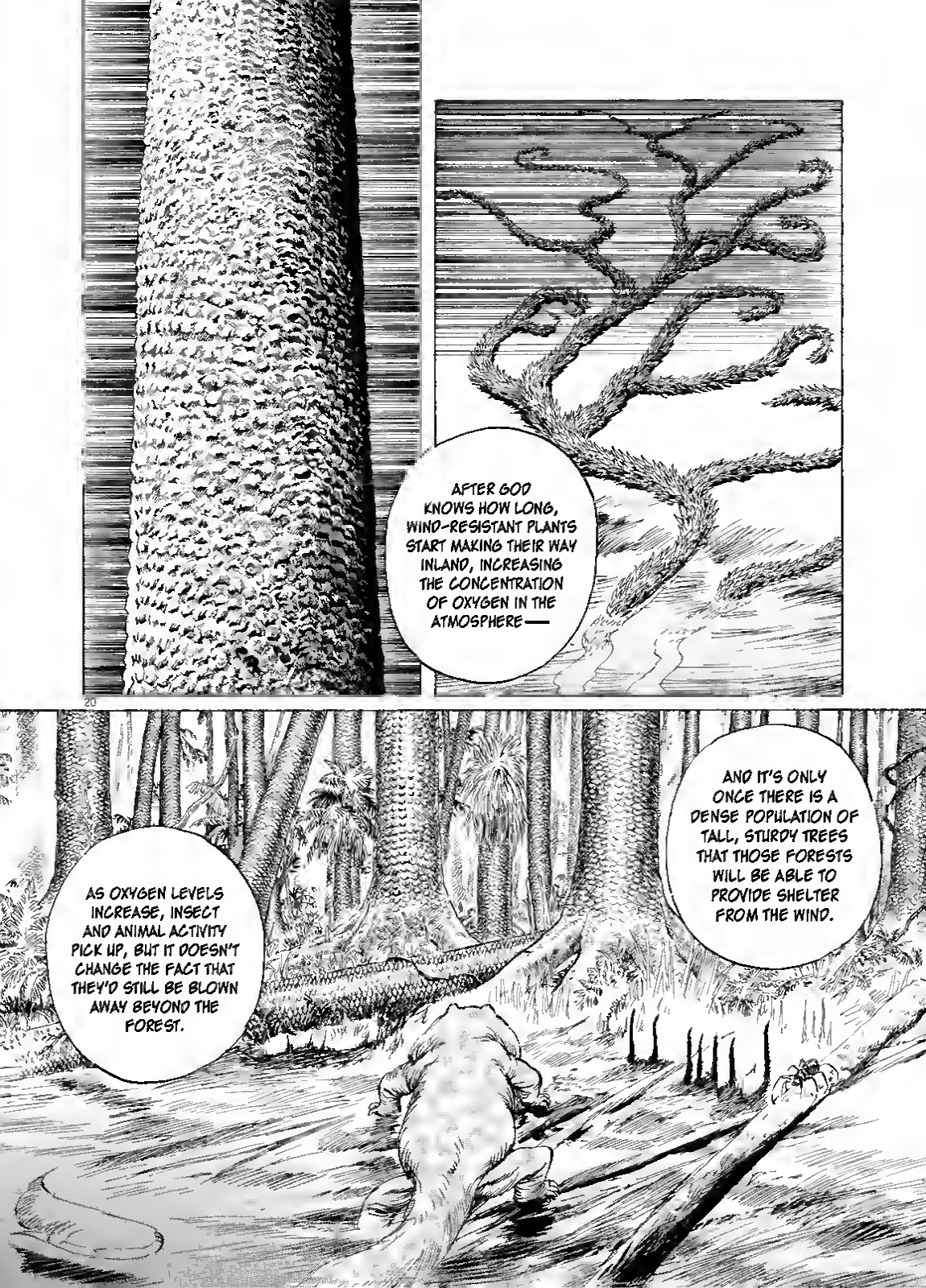
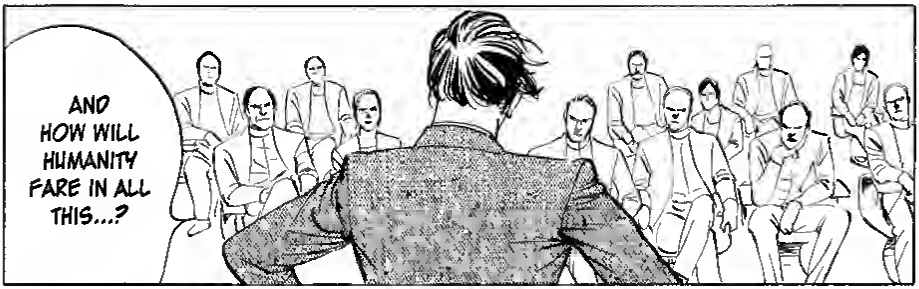
T/N As a reminder the Moon is in synchronous rotation i e the Moon keeps the same face towards Earth

LET ME TALK ABOUT THINGS FROM A BIOLOGICAL STANDPOINT, IN PROFESSOR DANCHEKKER'S STEAD.
DR. MULLER...
WELL THEN, IT SEEMS MY SUPPOSITION WAS WRONG.
HOWEVER, I WILL NOT CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT CHARLIE BEING EARTHIAN.
19
HOWEVER, IF THE TIDAL EFFECT IS CUT DOWN, THERE'D BE NOTHING TO STIR UP THE ORGANIC SUBSTANCES IN THE OCEANS. THE CREATION OF LIFE WOULD BE SLOWED BY SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS.
EVEN WITHOUT THE MOON, LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN BORN AND EVOLVED FROM THERE.
THING ABOUT LIFE IS, IT'S REAL PERSISTENT.
AND EVEN IF MARINE LIFE WAS FINALLY CREATED, IT WOULD BE QUITE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO MAKE IT ASHORE GIVEN THE STRONG WINDS AND POWERFUL WAVES HAMMERING AT THE SHORELINE.


AFTER GOD KNOWS HOW LONG, WIND-RESISTANT PLANTS START MAKING THEIR WAY INLAND, INCREASING THE CONCENTRATION OF OXYGEN IN THE ATMOSPHERE——
AS OXYGEN LEVELS INCREASE, INSECT AND ANIMAL ACTIVITY PICK UP, BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THEY'D STILL BE BLOWN AWAY BEYOND THE FOREST.
AND IT'S ONLY ONCE THERE IS A DENSE POPULATION OF TALL, STURDY TREES THAT THOSE FORESTS WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SHELTER FROM THE WIND.


AND HOW WILL HUMANITY FARE IN ALL THIS...?

THEY WOULD IMMEDIATELY FALL PREY TO THE HOWLING WINDS.
HOWEVER, HUMANS WERE THE FIRST TO START LIVING IN THE PLAINS.

LIKE OTHER ANIMALS, THEY'D SURVIVE IF THEY LIVED IN THE FORESTS...

21

—SO THEN, WHAT CAN UNARMED HUMANS DO?

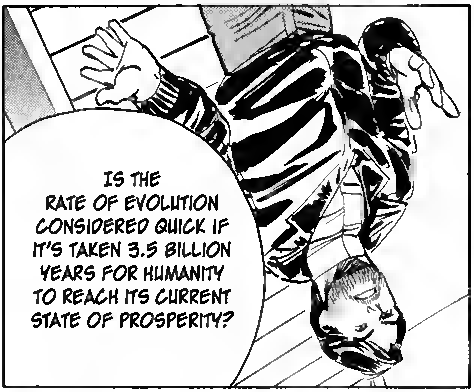
EVEN IF THERE WAS OPEN GROUND THAT WAS FREE FROM THE WIND, THE CONSTANT RISK OF BEING ATTACKED BY PREDATORS IS STILL VERY REAL.

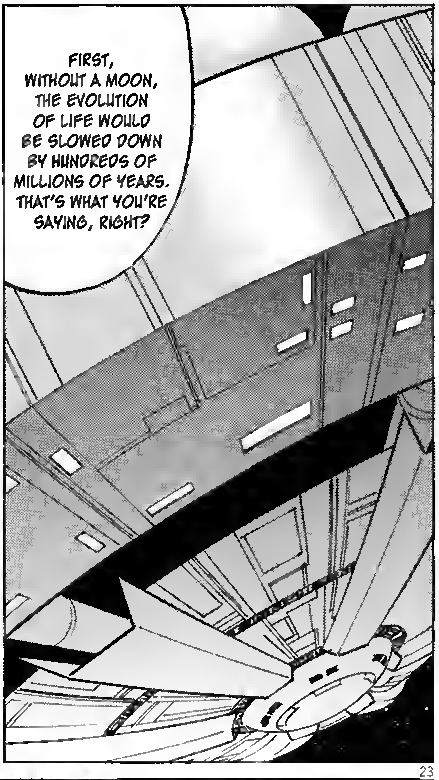
23

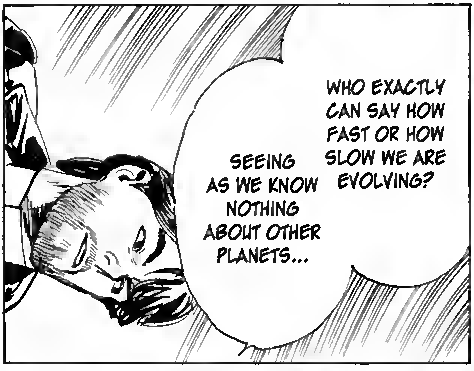
JUST FOUR HOURS TO FIND FOOD, HUNT IT, AND RETURN? IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE TO LOOK FOR FIRE OR WAYS TO CREATE IT IN THAT TIME?
ONE DAY CONSISTS OF A MERE EIGHT HOURS. THINK ABOUT IT, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE DURING A PITCH-BLACK NIGHT. THE ONLY TIME HUMANS COULD SEARCH FOR FOOD AND MAKE STONE WEAPONS OR SPEARS WOULD BE DURING THE DAY, NO?

I WON'T SAY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, BUT GIVEN THE LENGTH OF A DAY, IT'D BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR HUMANITY TO BUILD UP CIVILISATION IN A WORLD THAT'S CONSTANTLY BLASTED BY GALE-FORCE WIND.
HOUNDED BY THE WINDS, HUNTED BY PREDATORS, WE'D PROBABLY HAVE ENDED OUR LIVES AS NAKED MONKEYS...

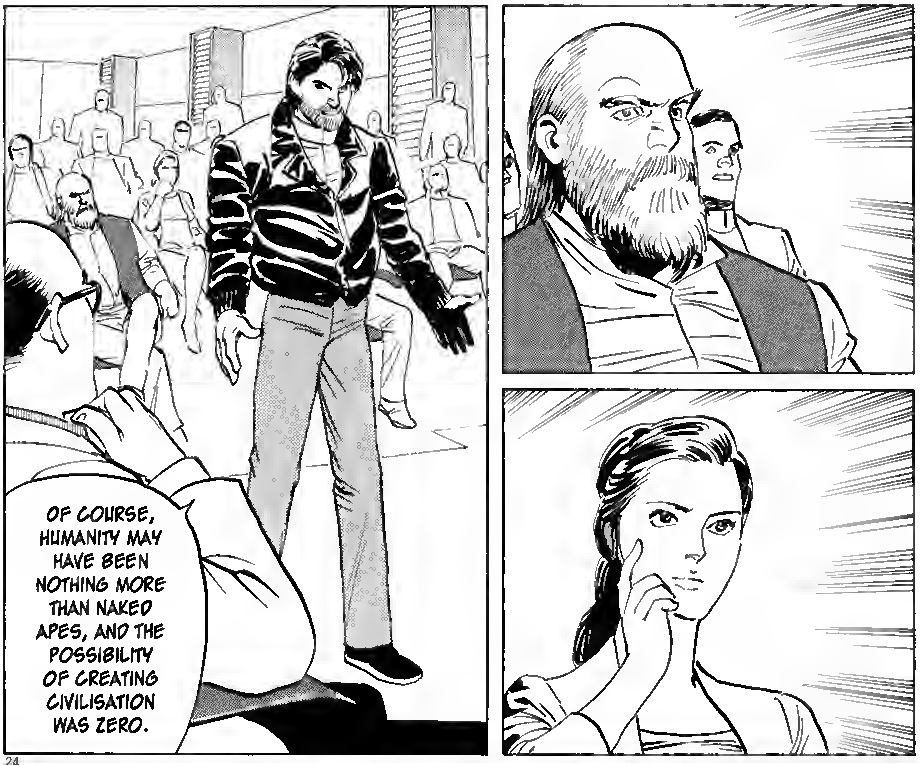
CERTAINLY... WE WOULDN'T BE WHERE WE ARE TODAY...


IS THE RATE OF EVOLUTION CONSIDERED QUICK IF IT'S TAKEN 3.5 BILLION YEARS FOR HUMANITY TO REACH ITS CURRENT STATE OF PROSPERITY?

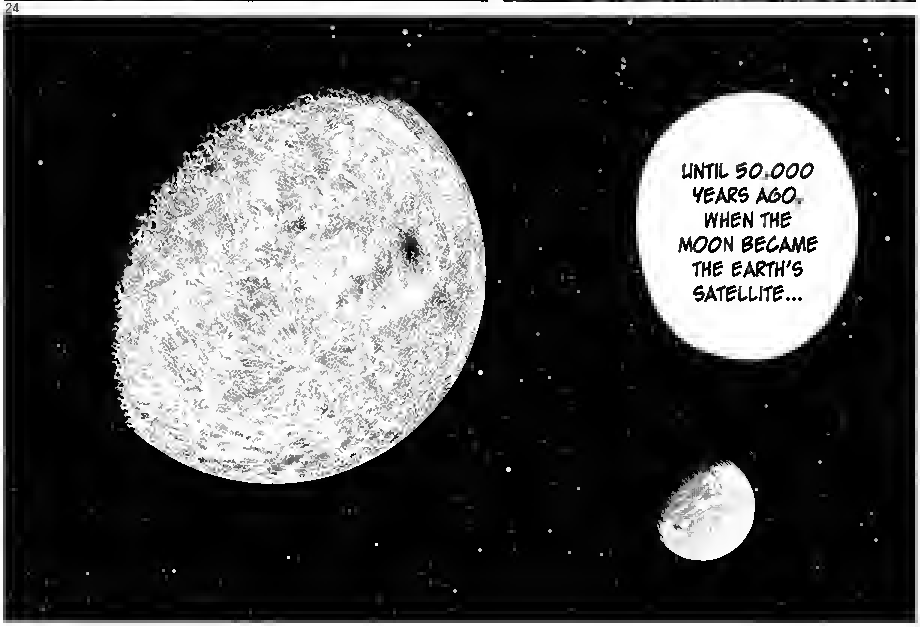

FIRST, WITHOUT A MOON, THE EVOLUTION OF LIFE WOULD BE SLOWED DOWN BY HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS. THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, RIGHT?


SEEING AS WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT OTHER PLANETS...
WHO EXACTLY CAN SAY HOW FAST OR HOW SLOW WE ARE EVOLVING?

COULDN'T YOU SAY THAT—— BECAUSE THERE WAS NO MOON, THE EVOLUTION OF LIFE ON EARTH WAS DELAYED FOR 3.5 BILLION YEARS?


OF COURSE, HUMANITY MAY HAVE BEEN NOTHING MORE THAN NAKED APES, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING CIVILISATION WAS ZERO.

24


UNTIL 50,000 YEARS AGO, WHEN THE MOON BECAME THE EARTH'S SATELLITE...